

base sequence (II) (SEQ ID No. 2): 5'-ACCGUUGGUUUCCGUAGUGUAGUGG  
UUAUCACGUUCGCCUAACACGCGAAAGGUCCCCGGUUCGAAACCGGGCACUACAAACCAACA  
CACAACACUGAUGAGGACCGAAAGGUCCGAAACCGGGCACGUCGGAAACGGUUUUU-3'.

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

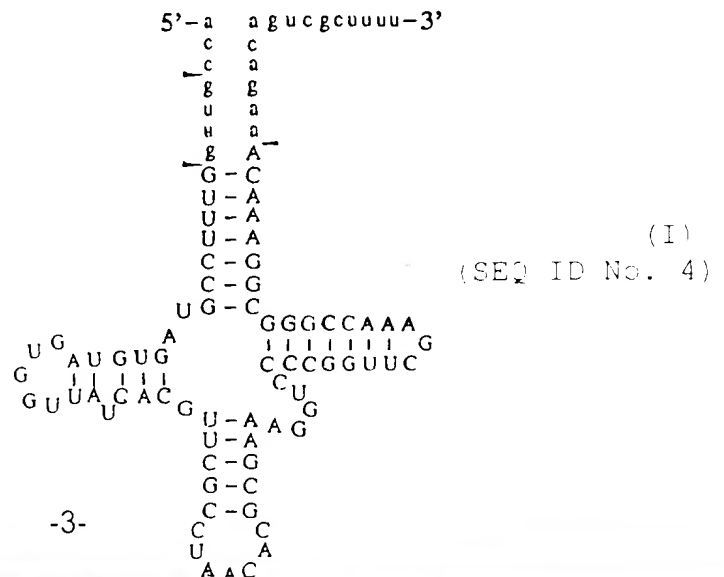
Please amend claims 1 and 8 as follows:

1. (Amended) A ribozyme comprising a nucleotide sequence having the following base sequence (I) or (II):

base sequence (I) (SEQ ID No. 1): 5'-ACCGUUGGUUUCCGUAGUGUAGUGGUUA  
UCACGUUCGCCUAACACGCGAAAGGUCCCCGGUUCGAAACCGGGCACUACAAACACAACACUGA  
UGAGGACCGAAAGGUCCGAAACCGGGCACGUCGGAAACGGUUUUU-3'

base sequence (II) (SEQ ID No. 2): 5'-ACCGUUGGUUUCCGUAGUGUAGUGGUU  
AUCACGUUCGCCUAACACGCGAAAGGUCCCCGGUUCGAAACCGGGCACUACAAACCAACACACA  
ACACUGAUGAGGACCGAAAGGUCCGAAACCGGGCACGUCGGAAACGGUUUUU-3'.

8. (Amended) An RNA variant adopting the following secondary structure (I), wherein said RNA variant comprises a bulge structure introduced in the region in which hydrogen bonds form between nucleotides 8 to 14 and nucleotides 73 to 79.



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